

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the Amendment filed 5 May 2008. Claims 45-56 are now pending. The Examiner acknowledges the cancellation of claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9, 17-19, 21, 27-32 and 43.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 45-56 are allowable over the prior art of record. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: regarding claim 45, the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest a hearing device having a base ring attached to a wall of a hermetic housing, a non-conductive insert attached to the base ring, and an interface element attached to at least one electrically conductive bonding layer and the non-conductive insert.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTINE D. HOPKINS whose telephone number is (571)272-9058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m..

Art Unit: 3735

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor, II can be reached on (571) 272-4730. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. D. H./
Christine D Hopkins
Examiner
Art Unit 3735

/Charles A. Marmor, II/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3735